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HB 3301
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR
AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT DATABASE

Statement for House Committee on
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection
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HB 3301 would appropriate \$45,000 for the updating and reorganization of the Hawaii Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) bibliographic database.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

In 1978, the Environmental Center was funded by the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) to create a computerized database of Hawaii's EIS's. The database, which was updated in 1982, was installed on the State's Hawaii Planning Activities and Support System (H-PASS) mini computer. Since then, desktop microcomputers have proliferated widely, and the H-PASS system has become largely supplanted by personal computers. In addition, no provisions were made for maintaining and updating the original system, and it has become seriously out of date.

Since 1970, roughly 570 EIS's have been produced. These documents contain a wealth of original information useful to state and county planners, developers, private consultants, and community organizations. The proposed upgrade of the database would:

1. Update and complete the record of published EIS'S;
2. Convert the database to a personal computer format accessible to all who wish to use it; and
3. Increase the efficiency of the State's EIS system by preventing unnecessary duplication of effort to procure environmental background information.

The Environmental Center strongly supports HB 3301. Without the data management capabilities conveyed by this system, maintenance of our review function will become progressively more problematic, and other sectors of the environmental management community will be similarly disadvantaged.

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center

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